

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims replaces all prior listings, and all prior versions, of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for ~~trading~~ transmitting image information comprising the steps of:

imaging an object by using a digital camera means so that a digital image of said object is acquired;

~~preparing digital image information in which information relating to the place and time at which said object was imaged, and information relating to the environment, are added to said acquired digital images~~ subjecting said acquired digital image to an image falsification prevention treatment; and

detecting a defect on said object by processing the results of said image falsification prevention treatment and extracting a feature of a detected defect;

transmitting said ~~prepared-processed~~ digital image information and information corresponding to said detected defect and its extracted feature via communications means;

~~, and further receiving on the transmission side of said~~ processed digital image and information corresponding to said detected defect and its extracted feature; ~~via said communications means, information from the reception side of said digital image information confirming that said information has been transmitted, and receiving payment for said output digital image information from a customer~~

checking said received digital image to detect the presence of image falsification; and

storing said received and falsification checking digital image, information of said detected defect, and its extracted feature in a memory.

2. (Currently Amended) The method for ~~trading-transmitting~~ image information according to claim 1, wherein said image falsification prevention treatment is embedding an electronic watermark in said digital image, and said embedded electronic watermark includes at least one of information relating to the place and time at which said object was imaged comprises longitude and latitude information received from a GPS, and standard time information.

3. (Currently Amended) The method for ~~trading-transmitting~~ image information according to claim 42, wherein said information relating to the place where said object was imaged comprises one or more types of information selected from air temperature, humidity, illumination, intensity of ultraviolet radiation, altitude, air pressure, wind velocity, degree of ~~cleanness~~ cleanliness and sound.

4. (Currently Amended) The method for ~~trading-transmitting~~ image information according to claim 42, wherein the name or code number of a person performing the imaging who acquired said digital image is further added to said digital image information.

5-7. (Canceled).

8. (Currently Amended) A method for ~~trading-transmitting~~ image information comprising the steps of:

imaging parts in which metals are welded an object by using a digital camera means so that a digital image of said ~~welded parts object~~ is ~~obtained~~ acquired;
~~preparing digital image information by adding to~~ subjecting said acquired digital image ~~imaging environment conditions at the time when said digital image was acquired~~ to an image falsification prevention treatment;

transmitting said ~~prepared~~ the results of said image falsification prevention treatment for said digital image information to the reception side via communications means;

receiving the results of said image falsification prevention treatment and information corresponding to said detected defect and its extracted feature;

checking the received results of said image falsification prevention treatment for said digital image to detect the presence of falsification; and

storing said received and falsification checked digital image in a memory; and detecting defects in said welded parts from said digital image information that is received on the reception side on said object by processing said falsification checked and stored digital image and extracting a feature of a detected defect;

outputting information relating to detected defects in said welded parts along with an image of said welded parts including said defects; and

receiving payment from a customer for said output information relating to said defects in the welded parts and said image of the welded parts.

9. (Currently Amended) The method for ~~trading~~ transmitting image information according to claim 8, wherein said ~~digital image of welded parts acquired by imaging said parts in which metals are welded is a digital image of parts in which metals are~~ object is welded which and a welded part of said object have has been subjected to a penetrant test processing or a magnetic particle test processing and said welded part is imaged in the step of imaging.

10. (Currently Amended) The method for ~~trading~~ transmitting image information according to claim 8, wherein said ~~imaging environment conditions include image falsification prevention treatment is embedding an electronic watermark in said digital image, and said embedded electronic watermark includes at least one of the place and time where said object was imaged, the person who~~

performed the imaging, and information relating to the environment at the place where said imaging was performed.

11. (Currently Amended) The method for ~~trading-transmitting~~ image information according to claim 8, wherein said ~~information relating to the environment at the location where said imaging was performed~~ includes any of image falsification prevention treatment is embedding an electronic watermark in said digital image, and said embedded electronic watermark includes at least one of air temperature, humidity, illumination, intensity of ultraviolet radiation, altitude, air pressure, wind velocity, degree of ~~cleanness-cleanliness~~ and sound.

12. (Currently Amended) The method for ~~trading-transmitting~~ image information according to claim ~~8~~9, wherein defects in said welded parts are detected by subjecting said digital image to image processing.

13-30. (Canceled).

31. (New) A method for transmitting image information comprising the steps of:

imaging, by a digital camera means, a welded part of an object which has been subjected to a penetrant test processing or a magnetic particle test processing and acquiring a digital image;

subjecting said acquired digital image of said welded part of said object to an image falsification prevention treatment;

detecting a defect in said welded part of said object by processing results of said falsification prevention treatment of said welded part on which said penetrant test or said magnetic particle test is processed and extracting a feature of a detected defect of said welded part;

transmitting results of said falsification prevention treatment of said detected defect and its extracted feature;

receiving said transmitted results of said falsification prevention treatment and information of said detected defect and its extracted feature;

checking said received results of said falsification prevention treatment to detect the presence of falsification on said digital image;

storing said received and falsification checked digital image information of said detected defect and its extracted feature in a memory; and

processing said stored digital image of said welded part of the object on which said penetrant test or said magnetic particle test is processed and detecting defect defects in said welded part.

32. (New) The method for transmitting image information according to claim 30, wherein said image falsification prevention treatment is embedding an electronic watermark in said digital image, and said embedded electronic watermark includes at least one of the place and time where said object was imaged, the person who performed the imaging, and information relating to the environment at the place where the imaging was performed.

33. (New) The method for transmitting image information according to claim 31, wherein said image falsification prevention treatment is embedding an electronic watermark in said digital image, and said embedded electronic watermark includes at least one of air temperature, humidity, illumination, intensity of ultraviolet radiation, altitude, air pressure, wind velocity, degree of cleanliness and sound.

34. (New) The method for transmitting image information according to claim 31, wherein in the step of processing, defects in said welded parts are detected by subjecting said digital image to an image processor.

35. (New) The method for transmitting image information comprising the steps of:

imaging, by a digital means, a welded part of an object which has been subjected to a penetrant test processing or a magnetic particle test processing and acquiring a digital image;

subjecting said acquired digital image of said welded part of said object to an image falsification prevention treatment;

transmitting results of said image falsification prevention treatment for the digital image via communications means;

receiving said transmitted results of said image falsification prevention treatment for the digital image;

checking said received results of said image falsification prevention treatment for the digital image to determine the presence of falsification;

storing said received and falsification checked digital image, information of said detected defect and its extracted feature in a memory; and

processing said stored digital image of said welded part of the object on which said penetrant test or said magnetic particle test is processed and detecting defects in said welded part and extracting a feature of said detected defect.

36. (New) The method for transmitting image information according to claim 35, wherein said image falsification prevention treatment is embedding an electronic watermark in said digital image, and said embedded electronic watermark includes at least one of air temperature, humidity, illumination, intensity of ultraviolet radiation, altitude, air pressure, wind velocity, degree of cleanliness and sound.

37. (New) The method for transmitting image information according to claim 35, wherein said image falsification prevention treatment is embedding an

electronic watermark in said digital image, and said embedded electronic watermark includes at least one of air temperature, humidity, illumination, intensity of ultraviolet radiation, altitude, air pressure, wind velocity, degree of cleanliness and sound.

38. (New) The method for transmitting image information according to claim 35, wherein defects in said welded parts are detected by subjecting said digital image to image processing.